

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION



National Archives and Records Service

Washington 25, D. C.

September 30, 1954

Lt. General C. P. Cabell
Deputy Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear General Cabell:

My letter to you of February 26, 1954, proposed a plan for the disposition of World War II Selective Service records and asked whether the proposed course of action would hamper the work of the Central Intelligence Agency. On May 14 [redacted] for your Director of Security, indicated that your mission would not be materially impeded by the destruction of the Selective Service records as outlined in our proposal.

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One element of our proposal provided for the retention of all records relating to aliens, including cover sheets (individual case files) and index cards. Further study of the procedures and records of the World War II Selective Service System and of the records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service has suggested that perhaps only the files of those who at any time were classified IV-C need be retained.

It appears that throughout the operations of the Selective Service System from 1940 to 1947 registrants were given this classification if they were (1) neutral aliens applying and receiving exemption from training or service, or (2) enemy or cobelligerent aliens who, because of objection to service, nationality, or other reasons, were unacceptable to the armed services or to the Director of Selective Service (for work of national importance).

From time to time additional registrants were also classified IV-C. Notably, from the beginning of operations until December 21, 1941, all aliens were included in this classification, and at the end of the war all aliens leaving the country were being included in it.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service also, of course, has extensive files on aliens in the country during this period of time, including visa files, alien registry case files, and others.

Retention of the files of all Selective Service registrants classified IV-C, in place of retention of all aliens' files, would

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greatly simplify the problem of segregating the records to be retained from those to be destroyed. It appears that it would take about 8 man years to segregate the folders of those classified IV-C as compared to about 80 man years to identify the folders of all aliens.

Please let me know whether this change in our proposed course of action would be of material importance to the Central Intelligence Agency.

Sincerely yours,


Wayne C. Grover
Archivist of the United States